

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /069 W

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R 191304Z FEB 76

FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1212

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNAVCOMMSTA LONDONDERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 083

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, U.K. (N.I.)

SUBJECT: CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION: NEGATIVE REACTIONS
TO ALLIANCE PROPOSALS

REF: BELFAST 76

1. REPORTS OF ALLIANCE PARTY PROPOSALS FOR THREE-TIER SYSTEM OF DEVOLVED ADMINISTRATION (REFTEL) HAVE RAISED FURTHER NEGATIVE REACTIONS FROM SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC AND LABOUR PARTY (SDLP) AND VANGUARD UNIONIST PARTY. UNIONIST PARTY NORTHERN IRELAND REPORTED TO VIEW PROPOSALS DIMLY ALTHOUGH NO PARTY SPOKESMAN HAS COMMENTED. ALLIANCE HAS NOT RELEASED TEXT OF PROPOSAL AND OBJECTIONS BASED ON NEWS REPORTS OF CONTENTS AND ON HEARSAY.

2. STRONGEST OBJECTION CAME FROM SDLP LEADER AND MP GERRY FITT WHO TERMED PROPOSALS "COMPLETELY IRRELEVANT AND UNREALISTIC NONSENSE." HE SAID CONVENTION CHAIRMAN AND BRITISH GOVERNMENT "FULLY APPRISED OF WHAT WE MEAN BY PARTNERSHIP AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL". VANGUARD LEADER AND MP WILLIAM CRAIG COMMENTED THAT ALLIANCE PROPOSALS "DID NOT MAKE SENSE" AND REAFFIRMED HIS COMMITMENTS TO PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY THROUGH CABINET GOVERNMENT AND TO VOLUNTARY COALITION IN CONTEXT UNITED ULSTER UNIONIST

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COALITION (UUUC) REPORT. THERE ALSO REPORTS THAT SOME

ELEMENTS IN UUUC ARE OPPOSED TO ALLIANCE SUGGESTION THAT
ALL-PARTY COUNCIL BE IN CHARGE OF SECURITY IN PROVINCE.

3. ALLIANCE DELEGATION TO SPEND DAY IN DUBLIN THIS WEEK
OSTENSIBLY TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON SECURITY WITH GOVERNMENT
OFFICIALS. IT UNLIKELY CONSTITUTIONAL PROPOSALS WILL NOT
BE DISCUSSED. HOWEVER, WHATEVER THE REACTION OF DUBLIN
GOVERNMENT TO ALLIANCE PROPOSALS ITS INFLUENCE WITH SDLP
HAS WANED CONSIDERABLY SINCE MAY 1974.

SPICER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COALITION GOVERNMENT, CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION, POLITICAL PARTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BELFAS00083
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760063-0484
From: BELFAST
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760236/aaaabfjk.tel
Line Count: 72
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 BELFAST 76
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ullricre
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 JUL 2004 by oatisao>; APPROVED <27 AUG 2004 by ullricre>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION: NEGATIVE REACTIONS TO ALLIANCE PROPOSALS
TAGS: PINT, UK, SDLP
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006